

Urbana Arts Grant Final Report
BEAR by Deke Weaver

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GRANT AWARD FORM

Grant Award Form: Please complete the Project Questions below and include this page in your Final Report materials submitted to the address below.

The information provided in question #1 - 5 should be the same as the information on your Urbana Arts Grant Agreement with the City.

1. GRANTEE: Name of Applicant or Primary Contact:

Deke Weaver

Address:

1110 West Daniel Street, Champaign, Illinois 61821

Project Title:

BEAR

2. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS AWARDED: \$ 1,750.00

3. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE: \$ 875.00

4. GRANT PERIOD: April 1, 2016 through April 1, 2017.

5. EXPENDITURE DEADLINE: April 1, 2017.

6. DATE OF PROJECT COMPLETION: March 10, 2017.

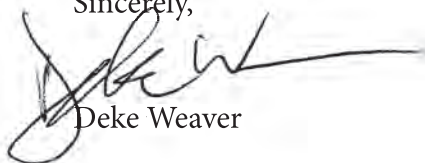
Deke Weaver
1110 West Daniel Street
Champaign, Illinois 61821
May 5, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This is my Cover Letter With Certification.

I hereby certify that I am authorized to approve this Report, which serves as a Request for Reimbursement, that I have reviewed the attached invoices in the amount of \$1,755.00; that all costs claimed have been incurred for the Project in accordance with the Agreement between Deke Weaver and the CITY OF URBANA; that all submitted invoices have been paid; and no costs included herein have been previously submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deke Weaver', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Deke Weaver

BEAR by Deke Weaver and The Unreliable Bestiary Post-Project Evaluation for Urbana Arts Grant

In May 2016 I was awarded a \$1750 Urbana Arts Grant for my collaborative, six-month, three-part performance BEAR. The total budget for the ambitious project came to \$67,000. The Urbana Arts Grant money was used for printing postcards and BEAR “Field Guides,” and for material required to create costumes for the production. BEAR was the 4th performance from The Unreliable Bestiary - a lifelong project presenting a performance for each letter of the alphabet, each letter represented by an endangered animal or habitat. In a reflection of the hibernation cycle, the passing of time, and transformation, BEAR was presented in three parts.

BEAR’s Fall Chapter took place in Urbana’s Meadowbrook Park. For 11 nights from September 18 to October 2, 2016, Unreliable Bestiary Rangers took small groups (8-16) of people on silent, guided walks to bear-related stations constructed throughout Meadowbrook Park. Starting at 4pm and ending at 10pm a tour left every 45 minutes. There were six tours each night. Each tour finished in Meadowbrook’s barn where the group was told an intimate story in a small “den” built in the barn’s old corner. Each tour was around 90 minutes long. We had over 700 people come to BEAR’s Fall Chapter. We worked closely with our collaborative partners the Urbana Parks District and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Both institutions could not have been more helpful. Tickets were free. Urbana Parks contributed labor, lumber, expertise, advice, and marketing. Krannert Center provided marketing and box office. Other supporters included the University of Illinois’ Center for Advanced Study and the School of Art & Design.

BEAR’s Winter Chapter was built around six videos, a video for each month the bear hibernates. Released online, the videos featured clues to a geocaching hunt, taking participants on self-guided walks through Meadowbrook and Allerton Parks. Each walk led participants to hidden containers which held single pieces of a map. The original map had been etched into a large chunk of wood and cut with a jigsaw into individual puzzle pieces. Participants brought their Field Guide with them on the walks, making “rubbings” of the map-puzzle-pieces, the final video and completed map leading people to the University’s Rare Book and Manuscript Library. At the library, participants were shown drawings, star maps, and very old books about bears, along with my journals for when I was writing, researching, and imagining the piece. The extended treasure hunt started on December 21, 2016 and ended on March 10, 2017, bridging the work from Fall to Spring. Participating in the Winter Chapter was free. While it’s impossible to know how many people went to the various sites in the park, 75 people went all the way to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

BEAR’s Spring Chapter (February 14-28, 2017) took place in Urbana’s Station Theatre. Our invited dress rehearsal was free. The eight shows of the run charged the Station’s usual ticket prices. We had 450 people attend the Spring Chapter. This chapter included live music, shadow puppets, dance, and storytelling.

There were 32 artists, designers, musicians, and performers who worked on BEAR. While most of the creative workers were local, close collaborators were flown in from California, Oregon, Minnesota, and New York. I worked directly with the Urbana Park District, the Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Allerton Park, the School of Art & Design, the Center for Advanced Study, and the University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Audience members traveled from Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and Indiana to attend the show.

BEAR had multiple points of contact for the public. In addition to the Fall, Winter, and Spring Chapters, we presented an introduction to the work at the July 2016 Urbana-Champaign Pecha Kucha held at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Part of the project included a daily posting of a fact about bears and a picture on Instagram and Facebook. In keeping with BEAR’s stories about time and transformation, I shaved my head and face on January 1, 2016 and didn’t shave or cut my hair until January 1, 2017. With the 365 photos I made a time-lapse animation of the growing hair and beard. One of the items in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library was a reliquary containing all the beard and head hair from 2016.

Supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, my three years of research for BEAR took me to Yellowstone, northern Minnesota, and residencies at the MacDowell Colony (New Hampshire), the Ucross Foundation (Wyoming), and the Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities Center (Montana). To support the project I wrote eight grant proposals for the project and received three. I wrote, designed, and implemented a successful Kickstarter crowd-funding campaign. I design the cards, posters, and website for the shows. I write, memorize, rehearse, and perform the work. I co-direct the work. I organize and direct our design collaborators. The most specific number I can get for the time of labor devoted to the project, would be the time for the final performances/presentations of BEAR. With all the people working on Fall, Winter, and Spring Chapters - the total came to 1560 people-hours. Of the \$67,000 budget, over \$35,000 went to paying artists, designers, musicians, and performers honoraria for their efforts.

From university professors, graduate, and undergraduate students working in ways they might not normally work to local performers, organizers, educators, and natural resource managers The Unreliable Bestiary performances are becoming points of intersection for creative workers in our community. The Urbana Arts Grant was a significant part of bringing BEAR to life.

BEAR: Project Documentation

Fall Chapter Video Clips: <https://vimeo.com/189381570>

Winter Chapter Videos: <https://vimeo.com/user2046681>



Field Guide and beeswax bear candle - given to each audience member in BEAR's Fall Chapter (Sept-Oct 2016)



Unreliable Bestiary Rangers Joe Coyle, Nicki Werner, & Ellen Hartman, BEAR's Fall Chapter at Meadowbrook Park.



Unreliable Bestiary Rangers David Hays, Joe Coyle, and Nicki Werner prepare a tour for BEAR's Fall Chapter (Sept-Oct 2016)



Unreliable Bestiary Rangers David Hays and Joe Coyle at the Brown Bear Station in BEAR's Fall Chapter (Sept-Oct 2016)



Deke Weaver and Cynthia Oliver in BEAR's Spring Chapter (February 2017, Station Theatre)



THE FOURTH PERFORMANCE FROM THE UNRELIABLE BESTIARY

BEAR

BY DEKE WEAVER

CODIRECTOR JENNIFER ALLEN

COMPOSER CHRIS PECK

COSTUME DESIGN SUSAN BECKER

LIGHTING DESIGN VALERIE OLIVEIRO

ARTISTS MIKE COLLINS KARIN HODGIN-JONES MARIA LUX
 PHIL ORR JASON PATTERSON NICKI WERNER PERFORMERS
 TOBY BEAUCHAMP THOMAS BROWN LAURA CHIARAMONTE
 JESSICA CORNISH JOE COYLE DAVID HAYS ELLEN HARTMAN
 JORGE LUCERO GUEN MONTGOMERY HANA YAGINUMA

HIBERNATION IN THREE PARTS

FALL CHAPTER: Wednesdays-Sundays, Sept 21-Oct 2, 2016

Free, but limited seating. Tix required, avail Sept 14, first-come, first-served at Krannert Center Box Office. Dress for walking outside on dirt trails.

WINTER CHAPTER: Nov 2016-Jan 2017

Videos connected with physical sites in Allerton, Meadowbrook, Kickapoo

SPRING CHAPTER: Feb 2017

Station Theatre, Urbana. Reserve tix at stationtheatre.com or 217-384-4000

FOR MORE INFORMATION: UNRELIABLEBESTIARY.ORG

BEAR is supported by Urbana Park District, Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Univ of Illinois Campus Research Board, Center for Advanced Study, College of Fine & Applied Art, School of Art & Design, Guggenheim Foundation, and magnificently refined individuals. Supported in part by a City of Urbana Arts Grant.

THE FOURTH PERFORMANCE FROM THE UNRELIABLE BESTIARY

BEAR

BY DEKE WEAVER

CODIRECTOR JENNIFER ALLEN

COSTUME DESIGN SUSAN BECKER PUPPET DESIGN CHRIS GREEN
 COMPOSER CHRIS PECK ENVIRODESIGN ANDY WARFEL
 MUSICAL DIRECTOR TONY REIMER ASSOC. ENVIRODESIGN PHIL ORR

PERFORMERS JENNIFER ALLEN LAURA CHIARAMONTE CHARLES
 HARRIS CODY JENSEN CYNTHIA OLIVER ELIZABETH SIMPSON
 DEKE WEAVER NICKI WERNER

BEAR's SPRING CHAPTER

8pm Thursday-Sunday Feb 16-19 and Wednesday-Saturday Feb 22-25
 The Station Theatre, 223 N. Broadway, Urbana, Illinois
 \$15 Thur/Fri/Sat, \$10 on Sun Feb 19 and Wed Feb 22 - cash/check only
 Reservations 217-384-4000 or stationtheatre.com

BEAR's Spring Chapter includes coarse language, violent and sexual stories/imagery

WINTER CHAPTER: December 2016-February 2017

Participatory videos connected with physical sites in the AMK Habitat Corridor

FOR MORE INFORMATION: UNRELIABLEBESTIARY.ORG

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A HIBERNATION MEDITATION IN THREE PARTS

